Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a tact that the country's foreign exchange re serves dropped to the tune of Rs. 1036.22 crores by the end of De cember 1989;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps during the last three months to maintain its foreign exchange reserves; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDA-VATE): (a) India's foreign exchange reserves (excluding gold, Special Drawing Rights and working ba-lanses held by the Government) which stood at Rs. 6604.63 crores as on 1-4-89 decreased by Rs. 1327.33 crores to Rs. 5277.30 crores on 31-12-89.

(b) and (c) Steps have been taken to maintain the foreign exchange reserves position by initiating a number of measures to promote expoits and curtail in essential imports. Attempts are being made to augment foreign exchange earnings throug-i invisible earnings and capital inflows, including external assistance disbursements

Payment of DA to the Central Government Employees

341. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR :

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE bs phased to state:

(a) whvthcr it is a fact that the wholesale price index for all commodities has climbed upward during tho last six months;

(b) if so, what arc the details in this regard;

(c) whither it is also a fact that with the increase in price-index the dearnnss allowances to the Central Government employees has become due with effect from 1st January, 1990; and

(d) if so, by wh<~.n Government propose to announce the D.A. to the Central Government employees ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDA-VATE) : (a) and (b) The movement of Wholesale Pries index(1981-82=100) for the period Ji!ly-Dcc. 1989 was as under : —

Month ending	W.P.I. (1981-82 = 100)
July, 1989	164-5
August, 1989	167' 1
September, 1989	167-9
October, 1989	167-9
November, 1989	167-3
December, 1989	166-4

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Orders in this regard will be issued shortly.

Foreign Exchange released for import of books

342. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the amount of foreign exchange released for the import of book' during the lasi year ;

(b) whether it has come to the no[f]ice of Government that certain